

Wycombe get the points from Clapton

Sports Mail Special Report

FOR their first Isthmian League game of the season, at home to Clapton, Wycombe Wanderers were without goalkeeper John Maskell, who was playing for the league against champions Leytonstone.

Wycombe Wanderers: Wells; Roystone; Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick; substitute: Priestly.

Clapton: Law; Smith, Kerr; Hoare, Farey, Watson; Ferdinando, Thompson, Picken, Hicks, Pilgrim; substitute: Stables.

Referee: K. D. Franklin (Kenton)

In the first minute Horseman went close with a snap shot from a well placed Merrick pass.

In the 14th minute Bates hit a Clapton post with a full-blooded drive, again following some hard work by Merrick.

Thompson and Picken caused Wycombe some trouble but their shooting was erratic.

After 25 minutes Law made a fine diving save to a Bates header. Four minutes later HORSEMAN headed a goal from a precise Bates cross.

Roystone broke through the Clapton defensive wall but collided with the advancing goal-

keeper. Then Samuels hit a post with a hard shot.

Half time: Wycombe 1; Clapton 0.

On the restart Bates broke through and claimed unsuccessfully for a penalty when impeded in the box.

Always looking for the openings, HORSEMAN put Wycombe back in the lead with a hard low shot. A minute later he almost made it three in a break-away but shot just wide.

In the 71st minute SAMUELS scored a well-deserved goal when he headed home a Bates centre.

HORSEMAN scored his third and best goal, breaking away, running half the length of the field and shooting hard.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDS .. 4
CLAPTON 1

Wycombe 4 Clapton 1

THREE BRILLIANT goals from effervescent inside-left Tony Horseman steered Wycombe Wanderers to victory in their first Isthmian League game of the season.

Horseman, well backed up by Bates and Samuels, showed that he has lost none of the skill that earned him an England trial last season.

Wanderers, one up at half time through Horseman, slackened off and Clapton equalised through Hicks after a Rundle error.

Horseman won back the lead, then Samuels, who had had some cruel luck previously, made it 3-1.

Wanderers continued to command the game and in the 82nd minute Horseman scored the goal of the match. Intercepting a pass on the halfway line, he raced clear, drew the advancing Moore and shot into the unguarded corner of the net.